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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,904	12/14/2001	Pete A. Hawkins	2207/13516	4204

7590 07/13/2005

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EXAMINER

PATEL, NIMESH G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2112

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,904

Applicant(s)

HAWKINS ET AL.

Examiner

Nimesh G. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-15 and 23-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 16-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barenys et al.('036), hereinafter referred to as Barenys.

3. Regarding claim 1, Barenys discloses a first set of field replaceable units each being of a first type; a first management bus(Figure 2, 220), coupled to the first set of field replaceable units, type specific to couple only to field replaceable units having the first type(Column 3, Lines 42-45); and a central management agent(Figure 2, 202) coupled to the first management bus, to monitor each of the first set of field replaceable units and transmit signals to control each of the first set of field replaceable units(Column 3, Lines 57-62); and a communication link, coupled to the central management agent, to transmit signals received from the central management agent indicating a failure of one or more of the first set of field replaceable units(Column 3, Lines 57-62).

4. Regarding claim 3, Barenys discloses a system, wherein the system further comprises: a second management bus(Figure 2, 226), coupled to the central management agent, to couple only to field replaceable units of a second type, and a second set of field replaceable units(Column 3, Lines 63-67).

5. Regarding claim 4, Barenys discloses a system, wherein the first and second management buses are Inter-IC buses(Figure 2).

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6. Regarding claim 5, Barenys discloses a system, wherein the system further comprises a second central management agent coupled to the first management bus(Column 3, Lines 30-33).

7. Claims 1, 3-11, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Holland et al.(5,367,669), hereinafter referred to as Holland.

8. Regarding claim 1, Holland discloses a first set of field replaceable units each being of a first type(Figure 3, 110); a first management bus, coupled to the first set of field replaceable units, type specific to couple only to field replaceable units having the first type; and a central management agent(Figure 3, 230) coupled to the first management bus, to monitor each of the first set of field replaceable units and transmit signals to control each of the first set of field replaceable units(Column 8, Lines 42-51); and a communication link, coupled to the central management agent, to transmit signals received from the central management agent indicating a failure of one or more of the first set of field replaceable units(Figure, 10).

9. Regarding claim 3, Holland discloses a system, wherein the system further comprises: a second management bus, coupled to the central management agent, to couple only to field replaceable units of a second type, and a second set of field replaceable units(Figure 3, 120).

10. Regarding claim 4, Holland discloses a system, wherein the first and second management buses are Inter-IC buses(Column 7, Lines 49-53).

11. Regarding claim 5, Holland discloses a system, wherein the system further comprises a second central management agent coupled to the first management bus(Column 8, Lines 38-42).

12. Regarding claim 6, Holland discloses a first set of field replaceable units each being of a first type; a first management bus, coupled to the first set of field replaceable units(Figure 3, 110), to couple only to field replaceable units having the first type; a second set of field

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replaceable units each being of a second type(Figure 3, 120); a second management bus, coupled to the second set of field replaceable units, to couple only to field replaceable units having the second type; and a central management agent(Figure 3, 230) coupled to the first management bus and the second management bus, to monitor each of the first set of field replaceable units and the second set of field replaceable units, and to transmit signals to control activation of the first set of replaceable units based upon signals received from the second set of field replaceable units(Column 8, Lines 42-51).

13. Regarding claim 7, Holland discloses a system, wherein the central management agent is a processor(Figure 3, 230).

14. Regarding claim 8, Holland discloses a system, wherein the first set of field replaceable units are temperature sensors(Figure 3, 130) and the second set of field replaceable units are power supplies(Figure 3, 120).

15. Regarding claim 9, Holland discloses a system, further comprising: a third management bus, coupled to the central management agent, to couple only to field replaceable units of a third type, and a third set of field replaceable units each being of the third type(Figure 3, 110).

16. Regarding claim 10, Holland discloses a system, wherein the third set of field replaceable units having the third type are fan trays(Figure 3, 130).

17. Regarding claim 11, Holland discloses a system, further comprising a second central managements agent coupled to the first management bus and the second management bus(Column 8, Lines 38-42).

18. Regarding claim 16, Holland discloses a system comprising: two or more temperature sensors(Figure 3, 110); a first management bus, coupled to the two or more temperature sensors; two or more fan trays(Figure 3, 130); a second management bus coupled to the two or more fan trays; and a central management agent(Figure 3, 230), coupled to the first

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management bus and the second management bus, to monitor the temperature sensors and the fan trays, and to transmit signals to control activation of one or more fan trays based upon signals received from the one of the temperature sensors(Column 8, Lines 42-51).

19. Regarding claim 17, Holland discloses a system, wherein the system further comprises a central processing unit coupled to the central management agent(Figure 3, 211).

20. Regarding claim 18, Holland discloses a system, wherein the central management agent is an abstracting agent(Column 8, Lines 42-51).

21. Regarding claim 19, Holland discloses a system further comprising, one or more power supplies(Figure 3, 120); and a third management bus coupled to the one or more power supplies and the central management agent.

22. Regarding claim 20, Holland discloses a system, further comprising an external communication link coupled to the central management agent(Figure 3, 10).

23. Regarding claim 21, Holland discloses a second central management agent coupled to the first management bus, to the second management bus and to the central management agent(Column 8, Lines 38-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

24. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made. .

25. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holland, in view of Jewett et al.('251).

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26. Regarding claim 22, Holland does not specifically disclose a system further comprising a redundant first management bus coupled to the central management agent and coupled to each of the one or more temperature sensors, wherein the first management bus is not coupled to any of the other components. However, Jewett discloses a redundant first management bus coupled to the central management agent(Figure 13; 167-1, 167-2). Therefore it would have been obvious to use a redundant first management bus coupled to the central management agent in the system of Larson, to achieve redundancy so as to prevent complete system failure in the event of the first management bus failing.

Response to Arguments

27. Applicant's arguments filed May 12, 2005 regarding the anticipation of claims 1 and 3-5 by Barenys have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that Barenys does not disclose "a communication link to transmit signals received from a central management agent indicating a failure of one or more of a first set of field replaceable units" is not persuasive because Barenys discloses a communication link indicating a failure of one or more field replaceable units(Column 3, Lines 57-62; Column 7, Lines 49-52).

28. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6-11 and 16-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nimesh G. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-3640. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on 571-272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nimesh G Patel
Examiner
Art Unit 2112

NP
July 8, 2005



TIM VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER